

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1897.

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EDWARD DRINKER COPE, NATURALIST—A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE.*

I.

Bitter constraint, and sad occasion dear
Compels me to disturb your season due;
For Lycidas is dead, dead ere his time
Our Lycidas, and hath not left his peer.

ON the morning of the 13th of April, in a car on my way from a funeral in New

* Address by the retiring President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Detroit Meeting, August 9th.

York to Washington, a newspaper notice of the death, the day before, of my old friend, E. D. Cope, caught my eye. Shocked by the intelligence, I dropped the paper, and memory recalled various incidents of our long acquaintance.

The threnody of Milton* in commemoration of his friend Edward King also rose to recollection, and the lines just quoted seemed to me to be peculiarly fitted for the great man just dead. He was, indeed, no longer young and had attained his prime,† but he had planned work for many years to come and had well advanced in the execution of some of it. He had truly died before his time and had left no peer; the greatest of the long line of American naturalists was prematurely snatched from science and from friends.

My acquaintance with Cope began in 1859. While looking through the part of the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for the month of April, in which my first paper published by the Academy had appeared, I found one by E. D. Cope 'On the primary divisions of the Salamandridæ.' It seems that the papers by Cope and myself had been passed on by the Committee on Publications on the very same day (April 26th) and appeared in print in juxtaposition. I had not previously

* Milton, Poems XVII.

† In the extract from Milton's poem, *time* has been substituted for *prime* and *our* for *young*.

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